



# SUGAR PLANTATION



## COMMISSION GOES INTO MARKET AND PAYS HIGHER PRICE

International Sugar Men Buy Raws and Pay Bigger Prices Than Refiners Offer

In the sugar market conditions still remained chaotic at the middle of the month, and the strange anomaly was presented of the international sugar commission going into the market and making purchases at a higher price than it had fixed and considerably higher than the refiners were offering under special permission. For beet sugar the lower price was slowly working eastward and had reached Pittsburgh. These are some of the enlightening points of information contained in the weekly letter which a local sugar agency received early this week from its New York representative. The letter was dated November 15 and said: Commission Enters Market

At last we are able to report something doing in this market for the international sugar commission has itself purchased 2200 tons of Peru, 2700 bags of Cuban centrifugals, and 1700 tons of Philippines in transit, all on the basis of 6.90 cents duty paid. These sales were only made after an attempt, so rumor had it, to establish a lower basis had failed. Negotiations have been under way with the Cuban representatives this week, and it is generally believed on the street that a compromise of 6.425 cents F. O. B. Cuba has been reached. The American has increased its basis price offer at New Orleans to 6.35 cents, but whether or not the Louisiana interests will see fit to change their ideas remain to be seen. Meanwhile tonnage chartered to bring sugar from New Orleans to New York is lying at the former port idle. Harmonizing such antagonistic elements as the Louisiana planters and the so-called "Sugar Trust" is some job. The beet sugar companies are doing their best to meet the famine in sugar as far east as Pittsburgh on the 7.25 cents basis plus New York freight.

**Refined Sugar Short**  
Refined sugar is still being doled out by those refiners who have any at 8.35 cents basis. A considerable quantity of export sugar has been retrieved and put on the market at 8.80 cents, the reported cost price to the original purchasers, with the understanding that it is to be retailed at not more than nine and a half cents per pound. Sugar brokers generally are much disgruntled over the disposition of the sugar commission to ignore their existence. The complaint is that those who have shown a willingness to meet every wish of the commissioners and assist to the best of their ability by refraining from doing business without permission and by turning their business slipping away from them and into the hands of others not so scrupulous. The fact that the commission finds itself utterly powerless to control those who choose to be defiant is not at all soothing to those who have been loyal. Much indignation is expressed over the sale at auction by the United States appraiser's store of a big lot of sample at the forbidden price of 18 cents to 20 cents per pound. The freight of 30 cents per pound is a matter which is causing much concern and energetic steps are being taken at Washington to impress upon the proper authorities the importance of providing satisfactory tonnage in place of that which has been commandeered.

## SUGAR BEET HARVEST

The Great Western Beet Sugar Company will harvest 30,000 to 35,000 bags of seed and has 3000 acres of land devoted to it so says an exchange. The fields are located in Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska and Colorado. It is believed that the company will be practically independent of all other concerns that furnish seed. The experimentation of the company began as far back as 1909 and it has a splendid beet breeding station with laboratories at Longmont, Colorado. Last spring over 250,000 separate sugar beets were tested and from 200 to 300 families are being developed along the most scientific and modern lines, getting all the coddling and nursing. Seed cleaning installations are found at Fort Collins, Sterling, Scott's Bluff, Nebraska, and Billings, Montana. About \$500,000 has been expended in the past year on this interesting enterprise.

## MAKES WHITE SUGAR

The advent of the first mill making white sugar direct in Porto Rico marks a new era in the industry in the island. It was put in at Central Constancia at Ponce. Sauri & Subira, the owners, have been making sugar for direct local consumption for years and have been putting out a sugar somewhat whiter and purer than the ordinary raws, but this white sugar made so by sulphur, lime and filtration processes marks a great era of advancement. The installation cost \$250,000 and the sugar cane capacity of the plant will be 250 tons daily.

## BEET SEED IMPORTS

Sugar beet seed imports into the United States ending with the fiscal year June 30, 1917, show a tonnage of 7,235 valued at \$1,854,867. This means an increase of 60 percent over the figures of the preceding year when only 4,521 tons came here valued at \$1,090,785.

## LARGE PLANT WILL HANDLE WASTE MOLASSES OF HAWAII

New Establishment At Antioch Secures Valuable Products From Commodity Which a Few Years Ago Was Considered Valueless and Was Dumped Into the Sea — Now Many War Needs Are Filled As Result

For many years the waste molasses from the manufacture of sugar in Hawaii was dumped into the sea. Within recent years this by-product has been shipped to the mainland, where it was used for manufacturing alcohol. Still more recently, experiments were made which showed that waste molasses contained elements of still greater value than its alcohol content. From molasses is now obtained potash, acetone, sulphate of ammonia, acetic acid and several other chemicals. It has grown into a business of considerable importance since the inception of the war, as all these various chemicals have been produced from Germany, and that source of supply has been eliminated.

Mason & Co. have for some years been manufacturing alcohol from waste molasses at Sausalito, a small town opposite San Francisco. Recently the residents have objected to the odors emanating from the factory, and the company has been looking for a suitable location where the fumes would not be offensive to any one.

Some years ago a company was formed at Antioch, in California, for the manufacture of brick and sandstone. Heavily interested in that company was John A. Buck, who is connected with the Matson Steamship Company.

**Big Plant at Antioch**

According to the San Rafael Independent, the company has purchased a site in the sandhills formerly owned by the brick company, east of the city of Antioch, about fifty miles east of San Francisco, and will erect there a plant of greatly increased capacity.

The site is all that could be desired, as it is near enough to the Santa Fe Railroad to allow of the construction of a sidetrack, while the property is directly on the banks of the San Joaquin River, where the river is of sufficient depth to allow steamers to carry molasses directly from Hawaii to the wharf. Or, if it seems wiser or more economical, the island steamers can unload at Richmond and ship the molasses forty miles up the road in tank cars.

As there is an abundance of fresh water there, the site seems ideal, offering both river and rail communication. The Independent, of Marin, in speaking of the removal of the plant from Sausalito to Antioch, says:

**Inception of Plant**  
"The Mason Brothers of Sausalito, with the cooperation of John Buck and the Matson people, had succeeded

ed in building up a large plant for the distilling of alcohol from molasses, which heretofore had been allowed to run to waste in the Hawaiian Islands and which is brought to Sausalito in ships of the Matson line."

"From a small concern of one still, under the direction of these men, the plant has grown to be one of the largest in the world and the factory is now supplying all the large powder making manufacturers of high grade explosives, and of course, very important in this war crisis."

**Valuable By-Products**  
"The chemicals in the employ of the company have discovered a process of further utilizing the waste product of molasses for the manufacture of potash, acetone, sulphate of ammonia, acetic acid and several other chemicals. All of these chemicals have heretofore been largely manufactured in Germany and everyone well knows how essential they are to the manufacturers of explosives, as well as useful in various other arts and crafts."

**Plant to Cost \$500,000**  
"The company has plans drawn for supplying an equipment which would cost half a million dollars and which would employ at least 500 men, and when completed, would absolutely take care of the waste product which at times runs into the bay. Material had been ordered, and ground had been broken, old buildings removed and grading done."

"A large number of workmen were employed when, without consulting with the manager of the Mason Company, and on complaint of three or four people living in the neighborhood, are attempting by every means in their power to secure the aid of the county authorities to cause the distillery to close down."

"This has discouraged the promoters and they immediately ordered all new work destroyed and are making arrangements for erecting this new establishment at Antioch, Contra Costa county, where ninety acres of land are offered to them at a minimum price and quantities of fresh water will be available at only the cost of pumping it from the river to the plant."

"It seems a pity that Marin county should lose this manufacturing, which would bring a number of highly trained men into the community and mean the disbursement of large sums of money monthly for wages, material and other necessities."

"It is well known that but few planters are able to produce No. 1 sugar only; many others produce no higher than No. 3, but taking the above segregation as approximately correct, when the various grades are selling at the prices stated below, the average market value from an hypothetical hacienda producing according to the percentages given above would be 5.40 pesos per picul or 1.93 cents per pound (one picul equals 139.42 pounds):"

Grade	Peso per Picul	Cts. per lb.	Av. Price	Av. Price
No. 1.....	6.50	2.32		
No. 2.....	6.00	2.14	6.25	2.23
No. 3.....	5.50	1.96		
No. 4.....	5.00	1.78	5.25	1.87
No. 5.....	4.50	1.61		
No. 6.....	4.00	1.43	4.25	1.52

Weighted average ..... 5.40 1.93  
"If the foregoing distribution and prices are approximately representative of what would be average conditions on the island of Negros, it is evident that those haciendas producing Nos. 1 and 2 sugars only are in a much more fortunate position than those producing sugars of the lower grades, but taking an hypothetical hacienda producing sugars of the above grades in the proportions first given, and at the above prices, we find that the average price for the output will be 5.40 pesos per picul, or 1.93 cents per pound, upon the basis of No. 1 sugar polarizing 88 degrees at 6.50 pesos per picul."

**Capital Requirements**  
"Upon this basis an attempt will be made to ascertain what are the necessary capital requirements and operating expenses to produce muscovado sugar in Negros from an hypothetical hacienda of sufficient size to insure an annual crop of 8000 piculs (567.75 tons) from 225 hectares (555.75 acres) over a period of five years. It is informed that the only places in Negros where rations are successfully raised are San Carlos, Kabankalan, Ilog, and Isabella, so that the major portion of the crop is produced from plant cane, and to assure an annual production of this amount an area of 225 hectares is necessary in order to plant each year not less than 100 hectares (247 acres), leaving 100 hectares to be plowed, aerated and prepared for planting the following season and 25 hectares (62 acres) for pasturage for work animals and other purposes. The cash value of 225 hectares is about 250 pesos per hectare (\$50.01 per acre), or 56,250 pesos (\$28,125). This value is conservative, as in most places the land has increased in value to 300 pesos per hectare, and in San Carlos and other districts where centrals are established the value of land has gone up to from 500 to 600 pesos per hectare."

"The cost of the milling facilities to turn out 8000 piculs of sugar in a season at the rate of 80 piculs per day is estimated at 20,000 pesos, or \$10,000. The capital investment required for such an hacienda may be estimated as follows:

Cost of land, 225 hectares, at 250 pesos per hectare .....	\$56,250
Muscovado milling equipment .....	10,000
2 1/2 kilometers of portable track and necessary cars for transportation of cane .....	6,000
75 carabao at 200 pesos each .....	15,000
Tools, houses, camarines, etc. ....	5,000
Haciendero's house .....	2,500
Total .....	\$94,750

"As confirmation of these figures a sale has been made quite recently in Negros of an hacienda of 200 hectares (494 acres) capable of producing about 8000 piculs per annum for 115,000 pesos, or \$57,500.

## SUGAR GROWING PRESENTS PROBLEMS FOR PLANTERS OF PHILIPPINES TO MEET

Special Report of George H. Fairchild Is of More Than Ordinary Interest When Hawaii Capital May Soon Be Invested in Central To Help Meet Neighbors' Needs

MANILA, P. I., Sept. 19.—At the request of Governor-General Harrison, who has been taking a deep interest in the difficult position in which the Philippine sugar producer finds himself as a result of the existing international situation, an exhaustive investigation into the cost of producing sugar in the Philippines has recently been made by George H. Fairchild, president and general manager of the well-known company of sugar factors and exporters, Welch, Fairchild & Company, Inc., To Determine Freight Basis

The data were desired by the Governor-General for use in connection with efforts which have been set on foot by the Philippine Government to have freight rates between the United States and the Philippines fixed at a figure which will make possible the selling of Philippine sugar in the United States market. Mr. Fairchild's investigation, upon which he has recently submitted his report, goes fully into details of production costs and is the most comprehensive study of the subject which has been undertaken.

The conclusion arrived at by Mr. Fairchild is that with the price for 90° sugars at the figure fixed by the United States Food Administration, Philippine sugars can not pay more than \$30 per ton of 2,240 pounds to New York, equivalent to \$1.34 per 100 pounds. The report points out that this rate is New York before the war was \$5.50 per long ton; it is now from \$5.50 to \$6.50, and Philippine sugars are barred from the market at the sugar prices now fixed so long as these uncontrolled rates obtain.

The report, which is based upon data for the island of Negros, the principal sugar region of the islands, and the one in which production is upon the largest scale, follows:

The data given herein represent an attempt to ascertain the cost of producing sugar on the island of Negros.

**Proportion of Grades**  
"In answer to the question: 'What are approximately the percentages of the various grades of muscovado sugars produced on Negros during the last five years?' also the average prices landed in Manila at which these grades have been sold, a person who is in a position to know asserted that the annual crop may be segregated into grades about as follows: Nos. 1 and 2, thirty-five percent; Nos. 3 and 4, forty-five percent; Nos. 5, 6 and corrientes, twenty percent."

"It is well known that but few planters are able to produce No. 1 sugar only; many others produce no higher than No. 3, but taking the above segregation as approximately correct, when the various grades are selling at the prices stated below, the average market value from an hypothetical hacienda producing according to the percentages given above would be 5.40 pesos per picul or 1.93 cents per pound (one picul equals 139.42 pounds):"

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2 1/2 kilometers of portable track and necessary cars for transportation of cane .....	6,000
75 carabao at 200 pesos each .....	15,000
Tools, houses, camarines, etc. ....	5,000
Haciendero's house .....	2,500
Total .....	\$94,750

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**Operating Expenses**  
Operating expenses may be estimated as follows:

Cost of cultivating 100 hectares of plant cane at 150 pesos per hectare .....	\$15,000
Harvesting expenses, 8,000 piculs at 50 cents per picul .....	4,000
Milling 8,000 piculs at 1 peso per picul .....	8,000
Expenses from mill to wharf, freight and other charges to land in Manila, including re-bagging, warehousing, etc., 8,000 piculs at 75 cents per picul .....	6,000
Interest on the foregoing crop advances (estimated) .....	3,000
Depreciation of mill and transportation equipment, 5 percent .....	400
Depreciation of carabao .....	1,125
Total .....	\$39,425

"These figures give an average cost of 4.86 pesos per picul (1.73 cents per pound), and assuming that the output of the hacienda in various grades would be according to the segregation first given, the planter would make a profit of \$2,160, which is about 3 1/2 percent on a capital investment of \$59,125.

Those haciendas having a greater percentage of the higher grade sugars will naturally do better than those with a higher percentage of the lower grades.

**Where Crop Is Shared**  
The following shows the cost when the sugar is produced by a central under similar conditions, where the product is divided equally between the central and the haciendero:

Cost of land .....	\$56,250
2 1/2 kilometers of portable track and necessary cars for transportation of cane .....	6,000
75 carabao at 200 pesos each .....	15,000
Tools, houses, camarines, etc. ....	5,000
Haciendero's house .....	2,500
Total .....	\$84,750

This is an average cost of 3.29 pesos per picul of sugar (1.17 cents per pound). The quantitative yield of 90° sugar is about the same as for the various grades of muscovados, but the price per picul is about double, so that even though the planter gives one-half of his product to the mill he is better off financially, for the following reasons:

"When the price of muscovados is 5.40 pesos (1.93 cents per pound), as already explained, centrifugals will be about 10.5 pesos (3.75 cents per pound), allowing a difference in value by reason of polarization of 1.75 cents per picul between centrifugals and muscovados. Eight thousand piculs of muscovados at 1.93 cents per pound would be worth \$12,600, but it would cost the haciendero \$19,425 to produce, or a gain of only \$2,175; 8,000 piculs of centrifugals at 3.75 cents per pound would be worth \$30,000, one-half of which belongs to the central and one-half to the haciendero, the expense to the haciendero for his \$12,600 worth of centrifugals would be \$13,325, leaving a profit of \$7,675, which represents about 16 percent interest on the capital investment of \$49,125."

"While there is a very substantial financial gain, according to the above calculations, there are in addition many material advantages to the haciendero who is able to grind his cane at a central. He is relieved of the annoyance and expense of operating a mill and recruiting extra laborers; his capital and operating requirements are reduced, and he is free to exercise all of his energies in increasing the production of cane. From actual experience in San Carlos it has been found that whereas the hacienderos were operating at a loss producing muscovado sugar, they are now rapidly becoming financially independent and no longer are obliged to pay interest charges to bankers and others."

"To the Manila market price there should be added 25 centavos per picul (0.093 cents per pound) for all expenses for placing the sugar aboard ship. To the cost of freight from Manila

to New York there should be added from 4 to 6 percent of the present value of the sugar for marine and war insurance, loss in weight, export charges, wharfage, interest, etc."

"Prior to the war the cost of a sugar central with the requisite transportation, storage and shipping facilities to turn out 200,000 piculs (14,000 tons) a year was \$1,250,000."

"Operating expenses, exclusive of interest on capital and an amortization charge or allowance for depreciation, were \$125,000, giving a unit cost of 1.25 pesos per picul, or \$8.964 per ton."

"The return on the capital investment at a minimum rate of 10 percent would be \$125,000 additional, to which should be added a further charge of \$3,585 per ton for depreciation and amortization charges to retire the capital investment at the end of a period of the contract, viz., 30 years. This brings the cost to the central, with an allowance for interest on the capital investment, to 3 pesos per picul, or \$21.513 per ton."

"Since the war the price of all war materials required for the transportation of the cane and the recovery of the sugar therefrom have been advancing rapidly, so that the cost of manufacture may now be from 25 to 50 percent higher than it was in 1914. While it is not possible at the present time to ascertain this advance accurately, we may find that the allowance to the central should be nearer 4 pesos than 3 pesos per picul, or \$28.984 per ton."

"No allowance has been made here for low yields in years of drought or of too much rainfall. Many haciendas are not equipped with protective irrigation and drainage systems, such as have been installed by Mindoro Sugar Co."

## Unknown Japanese Hit By Auto And Quickly Dies

Well Known Broker Gives Version and Says That Accident Was Unavoidable Though He Sought To Swerve His Car

An unidentified Japanese man was struck and almost instantly killed by a car driven by Walter Duisenberg just in front of the Trinity Mission on Beretania between Richards and Alakea Streets at eight o'clock last night. A call for the emergency ambulance was turned in by a provost guard and when Hospital Steward W. F. Myers arrived on the scene, he said the man had been untouched and was still lying on his face in a pool of blood about four feet from the street car track. He was dead when the ambulance arrived and was taken to the morgue immediately. It was said that he died as the result of a fractured skull. An autopsy will be held at nine o'clock this morning.

**Duisenberg Tells of Accident**  
Mr. Duisenberg told The Advertiser of the accident shortly after its occurrence and gave the following version:

"With Mrs. Duisenberg and Colonel Ebert in the car I was proceeding Ewa on Beretania Street. In the block between Richards and Alakea Streets, I saw a man step out from the curb and sought to avoid him by swerving the course of the car to the right. I thought the man was going to turn back to the makai side of the street, but instead he ran forward directly in front of the car."

Mr. Duisenberg further said that when the accident occurred he was running slowly, not more than seven or eight miles an hour, and that he stopped the car within ten feet after hitting the Japanese. The accident occurred not at a corner but in the middle of the block.

**Body Left for Ambulance**  
It was stated at the police station last night that no attempt had been made to ascertain the extent of the unfortunate man's injuries before the ambulance arrived, although quite a crowd had gathered. It was said that he was found facing the mauka curb and that a quantity of blood was flowing in that direction.

Mr. Duisenberg said that a medical man whose name was unknown felt the pulse of the injured man but that no attempt to move him was made at the order of some person in the crowd who informed them that the ambulance was on the way and would be there within a few minutes.

The victim of the accident was about fifty years of age. Several Japanese were called in last night to identify him, but none of those called was able to recognize him. No charges have been preferred."

## DIAMOND HEAD LIGHT HOUSE BEING REPAIRED

Repairs are being made to the Diamond Head lighthouse, the first in many years. The light section is now suspended in a wooden trestle which is to be replaced by a concrete structure of large dimensions.

The light has an odd look these days for there has always been the white structure, a dominant feature of the bluff overlooking the Kalahele shore. The new structure may be completed in about three months. Meanwhile the light shines at night as usual.

## MATTER OF BONUS MAY WAIT UNTIL COSTS ARE KNOWN

Plan May Be Presented To Planters' Meeting For Certain Wage Scale and Bonus

Higher wages or increased bonuses for plantation laborers are not likely at the present time, despite the requests made by the Higher Wage Association. The matter of wages and of bonuses will be one of the more important matters that will be considered by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association at its annual meeting, which will convene Monday. Decisions may be reached at the meeting or the question may be referred to committee and a subsequent report made to the trustees and through them to the members of the association.

One of the proposals which will be made to the Planters' Association, it is learned on good authority, will be the determination of a regular wage scale at the present, to which shall be added one-third of the amount so paid each month, and that the matter of what bonus shall be paid shall be held in abeyance until a later time, when it can be determined what earnings are likely to be, what are the costs, how the way taxes work, what price the sugar commission allows—in short, when the planters have had an opportunity to get on their feet and find out just where they stand in war times and under the best conditions that can be met from the growing, harvesting and marketing of the coming crop.

**Result Problematic**  
How this proposal will be taken by the Japanese remains to be seen. It is hoped that they will take the proposal in the spirit offered, if the plan goes into effect. Should a strike be the result it is likely the matter would be at once taken up with the sugar commission and through that body with the United States authority. It is said, also, that a strike would merely precipitate congressional legislation which will permit the bringing in of Chinese labor, which has, for so many years been excluded. The federal government is acting quickly in the matter of strikes which tend to hamper the production of war necessities, and especially food supplies.

Some of the smaller plantations at the present time say it will be impossible for them to pay the bonus rate of this year for another year with costs rising so fast. Especially is the cost of fertilizer mentioned, about doubled; bags are higher; there is a tax on bills of lading. Practically everything which the sugar planters need is higher and the bonus is paid upon the gross received from the sugar, not on the net. Another reason for a later determination as to bonuses is the matter of shipping and freight costs. No matter what shipping arrangements are made for the moving of the crops it is confidently expected that freight rates will be higher, very likely doubled. It is urged that until the planters know what they will have to pay for freights, whether they will be able to move the crop with any celerity, what other added costs would be in all directions, they cannot be expected to determine what bonuses shall be paid.

It is further pointed out that the present bonus system was arranged to meet conditions which were very different from those of the present, and that some changes will undoubtedly be found necessary.

## TWO WAREHOUSES FOR ARMY ARE COMPLETED

Two of the army quartermaster department warehouses on the old Honolulu naval station site, foot of Richard Street, have been completed, while the superstructure is rising over a third foundation. The foundation for the fourth is now in place.

Each of these warehouses is 500 feet long, the longest in the Territory, says Colonel Schofield, department quartermaster. They feature run lengthwise from the street and have ample rooming space between. They all face the transport docks, just across the street, which are to be rebuilt and shedded over so that they will be compact, and do duty in protecting exposed goods removed from a ship.

The construction quartermaster has his offices in a two-story frame building at the corner of Allen and Richard streets, while in the old office of the immigration station, across the street are the transport dock offices. In a short time all the department quartermaster forces will be brought together, or just across the street, at the foot of Richard Street, and the present office near the armory closed and then rebuilt for use of the headquarters detachment as a barracks.

There might be serious objection on the part of a food commissioner and on the part of temperance people in the exportation of millions of gallons of molasses from Porto Rico to Martinique to be used in the manufacture of rum, but this rum is being sent to France to be used against the Germans, for it appears in No Man's Land as high explosive. The Martinique manufacturers have bought molasses from the British Islands but did not get sufficient quantities and so have turned to Porto Rico giving them large orders.